

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 8, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 8 as follows:

The bead regions 238a,238b comprise an inextensible bead core 244a and 244b, respectively, and an elastomeric torus or ring 246a and 246b, respectively. Each elastomeric torus 246a,246b is located laterally outward from and adjacent to the bead cores 244a,244b, respectively, relative to the equatorial plane EP of the tire 230. The elastomeric torus 246a,246b is preferably constructed of a pre-cured or partially cured rubber so that the torus can be easily handled and will maintain its shape during the initial manufacturing stages. The toruses 246a,246b can be reinforced by fibers of materials including glass, aramid, steel and polyester. Preferred section diameter of torus 246a, 246b is 5mm to 8 mm which is compatible with the carcass ply flexibility. While the toruses are shown with a circular cross section, it is within the scope of the invention to provide a torus with other geometrical cross sections, such as but not limited to square, oblong, triangular and [octagonal] octagonal.

On page 8, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 20 as follows:

Referring to FIGURE 3, a detail the bead region 238b of the tire 230 mounted on a tire rim 358 is illustrated. Bead region 238a is a mirror image of bead region 238b and therefore not discussed. As shown in FIGURE 3, ply 242 extends down sidewall 236b and includes a turnup end 242b that initially wraps around and under bead core 244b. Turnup end 242b then extends laterally outward under the bead core 244b relative to the [equitorial] equatorial plane of the tire 230, under the elastomeric torus 246b and is then turned up and around the elastomeric torus 246b. Continuing, the turnup end 242b is folded back under the bead core 244b so that the locked end section 250b of the carcass ply turnup end 242b is located radially inward of the bead core 244b and anchored between the bead core and the initial turn of the carcass ply end 242b where it extends laterally outward from the central portion of ply 242 and around and under the bead core 244b. Note that the locked end sections 250a,250b can wrap around the bead cores 244a,244b and extend upward adjacent against the central portion of the ply 242.

On page 10, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 5 as follows:

Referring to **FIGURES 4A, 4B and 4C**, several steps in the process of forming the bead regions **238a, 238b** using a substantially conventional tire building drum are illustrated. Only the formation of bead region **238b** is described, since both regions are formed in the same manner. **FIGURE 4A** illustrates the initial step in process of building the tire **230** according to the present invention wherein the carcass ply **242** is placed on the tire building drum **452** followed by the addition of the elastomeric torus **246b** above a groove **454b** formed in a section **452b**. At rest, the inside diameter of the elastomeric torus **246b** should preferably be slightly smaller than the diameter of the drum **452** at the bottom of the groove **454b** during the initial building step. The elastomeric torus **246b** may be held in place within groove **454b** in section **452b** of the drum by pressing the elastomeric torus into groove **454b** by any conventional means. As illustrated by **FIGURE 4B**, the turnup end **242b** of the carcass ply **242** is then folded back over the elastomeric torus **246b** toward the center section **452c** of the drum **452** and the bead core **244b** is placed upon the locked or anchored end section **250b** inwardly of and adjacent to the now enfolded torus **246b** relative to the center portion **452c** of building [drum] drum **452**. Referring to **FIGURE 4C**, the center portion **452c** of the drum **452** is expanded prior to the addition of the chafer **248b** to prevent movement of the bead core **244b** when the carcass **242** is inflated and the manufacture of the tire **230** is completed by conventional tire building processes well known to those familiar with the art.